Construction of new dams in Gujarat

†4093. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for construction of new dams in Gujarat has been conducted by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESORUCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Government based on their priorities. The Central Government has not conducted any survey for construction of new dams in Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

Water crisis in States

†4094. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESORUCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many parts of the country water resoruces are getting dried and level of ground water is declining and on account of it the water crisis in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Rajasthan has worsened and it appears that one more desert is coming up;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to combat this situation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ): (a) and (b) the ground water table in many parts of the country is depleting. As per the latest assessment carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), NABARD and the States, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' *i.e.* the annual ground water extration exceeds the annual replenishable resource and significant decline in long

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.